

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A technique restores adjacencies between a non-stop forwarding (NSF) router and its neighboring routers during reload of routing protocol software on the NSF router within a computer network. When a new instance of the routing protocol software is re-

5 loaded, each interface of the NSF router is placed in a special state that enables it to receive incoming Hello packets from its neighboring routers. When placed in the special state, the interface passively "listens" for incoming Hello packets from the neighbors to determine which neighbors send the packets. The router thereafter promptly creates and sends a unicast Hello packet to each neighbor from whom it has received an incoming

10 Hello packet and creates associated neighbor data structures.